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1 - 3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A method for spoofing stations while transmitting data through a medium, ~~the method comprising in an arrangement including a first station sends a RTS message that includes a duration field, and a second station sends a CTS message that is responsive to the RTS message that also includes a duration, where the duration field defines a period of time that the medium is to be reserved to allow unimpeded transmission of data that the first station has to transmit, and where each obeying station in the arrangement that receives either the RTS message or the CTS message, updates a Network Allocation Vector (NAV) register with the duration information obtained from the received RTS message, or from the received CTS message when a corresponding RTS message was not received, characterized by:~~

~~said NAV register being a sole register within a station that controls duration during which the stations refrains from transmitting;~~

~~said first station setting a duration value for its RTS message to a value other than a time period for a predetermined subsequent message transmission; and~~

~~— sending a signal containing the duration value during a contention free period, wherein at least one of the stations is an obeying station that updates a network allocation vector in accordance with the duration value, that records a reason why the network allocation vector is updated, and that determines when to ignore a duration value of a subsequent signal sent during the contention free period and when to obey the duration value of the subsequent signal based upon the reason why the network allocation vector is updated~~

~~— wherein the duration value represents a time period for suppressing transmissions by the obeying station.~~

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein transmissions of unknown protocols are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein transmissions of hidden stations are

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given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein critical transmissions are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

8. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein at least some of the stations are provided in an overlapping basic service set, and stations of the overlapping basic service set are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein stations of an enhanced version of a standard are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

10 - 13. (Canceled).